



October 2005

## WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE

# EDUCATION UPDATE

*The Legislative Education Update is produced by the Wyoming Legislative Service Office (LSO) and provides a short review of School Finance Recalibration activities. In addition, the Update provides a brief summary of other legislative interim activities pertaining to K-12 education issues. Additional information and reports pertaining to these activities can be found on the legislative website by clicking on the School Finance Information link: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/>. For more information about legislative education issues, contact Dave Nelson at the Legislative Service Office, phone: 307-777-7881.*

---

### 2005 MODEL RECALIBRATION

The Select School Finance Committee is in the middle of recalibrating the Wyoming school finance distribution formula. Efforts to date have been largely comprised of working sessions devoted to discussion of school finance issues and to development of parameters for model design and model components. Recalibration consulting work is provided to Select Committee members and the Legislature by Lawrence O. Picus and Associates.

The Select Committee and the Joint Education Interim Committee are scheduled to meet jointly on October 31 and November 1 in Casper to review a draft report summarizing recalibration work to date, together with analysis and recommendations on remaining model components. Fiscal analysis of model components will also be a part of this report to assist with legislative decision making. The draft report will be posted on the legislative website at the School Finance Information page prior to this meeting.

It is anticipated from this meeting, school finance recommendations will be forwarded for public comment and subsequent finalization. The following schedule of recalibration activities presents the timelines established to date:

### TENTATIVE RECALIBRATION EVENT SCHEDULE

**October 31/November 1:** Select Committee review of prototype design and formatting, including fiscal analysis; proposed design and format forwarded for public informational meetings/hearings; Joint Education Committee involvement.

**November 10-11:** Public informational meetings/hearings on forwarded model, attended by Select Committee/Joint Education Committee. (November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting/hearing by WEN video system.)

**December 6-7:** Select Committee meeting finalizing recalibrated model components and recommendations subsequent to public informational meetings; draft legislation forwarded; Joint Education Committee/involvement.

**January:** Select Committee/Joint Education Committee meeting on completing draft legislation implementing recalibrated model and school finance package; Joint Appropriations Committee involvement.

### 2005 EDUCATION ISSUES

**Hathaway Student Scholarship Plan.** In accordance with 2005 SF 122, the Education Merit Scholarship Committee submitted a report and legislative recommendations on the Hathaway Student Scholarship Plan to the Joint Education Interim Committee and to the Joint Appropriations Committee. The recommendations include proposed program parameters and program funding. The Education Committee will receive and discuss the report at its October 13 meeting in Afton. Proposed legislation is and will continue to be posted on the Legislative website.

**Private School Licensing.** The Private School Licensing Subcommittee of the Joint Education Interim Committee is scheduled to meet November 2 in Casper for purposes of finalizing recommendations to the Education Committee pertaining to licensure of private for-profit post secondary education degree-granting institutions. Legislation forwarding Subcommittee recommendations will also be posted on the legislative website upon finalization.

### SCHOOL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

The Select Committee on School Facilities met in September to review and discuss school construction budget recommendations and school construction issues with School Facilities Commission members and staff. The meeting resulted in the forwarding of Commission concerns to a future meeting for discussion, together with the development of draft legislation. Issues included prioritization of school facility budget recommendations, budget flexibility for addressing prioritized remedies and the school facility planning process. It is anticipated a future meeting will be scheduled in November or December.